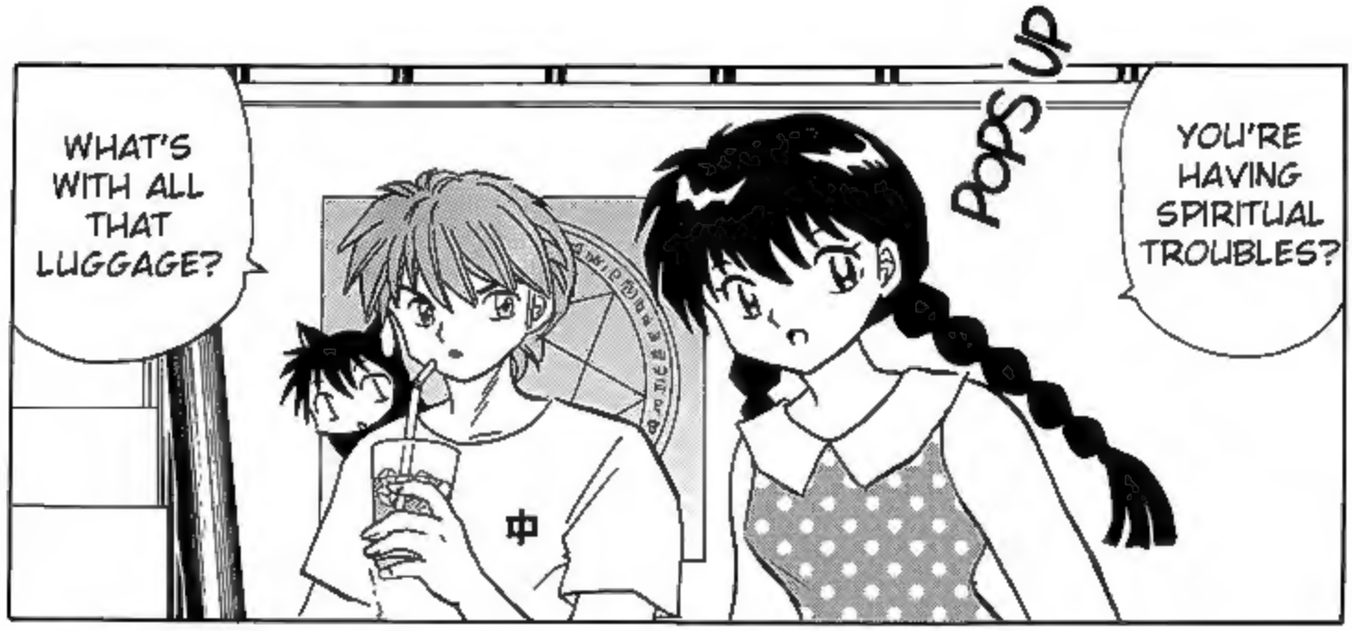
CHAPTER 203
RED SOUMEN

CICADAS CHIRPING
Slide
JUUMON-JI-KUN-!
HEY!
LONG TIME NO SEE, SAKAKI-SAN!
SORRY FOR THE SHORT NOTICE.
SO YOU WANNA DISCUSS SOME-THING?
2
ABOUT THAT...
IT'S SOMETHING I COULDN'T RESOLVE ON MY OWN.


WHAT'S WITH ALL THAT LUGGAGE?
POPS UP
YOU'RE HAVING SPIRITUAL TROUBLES?

SO I FIGURED YOU'D WANNA SEE THEM.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE,
WELL,
ROKUDOU-KUN AND MAMIYA SAKURA-SAN!?
HUH!?

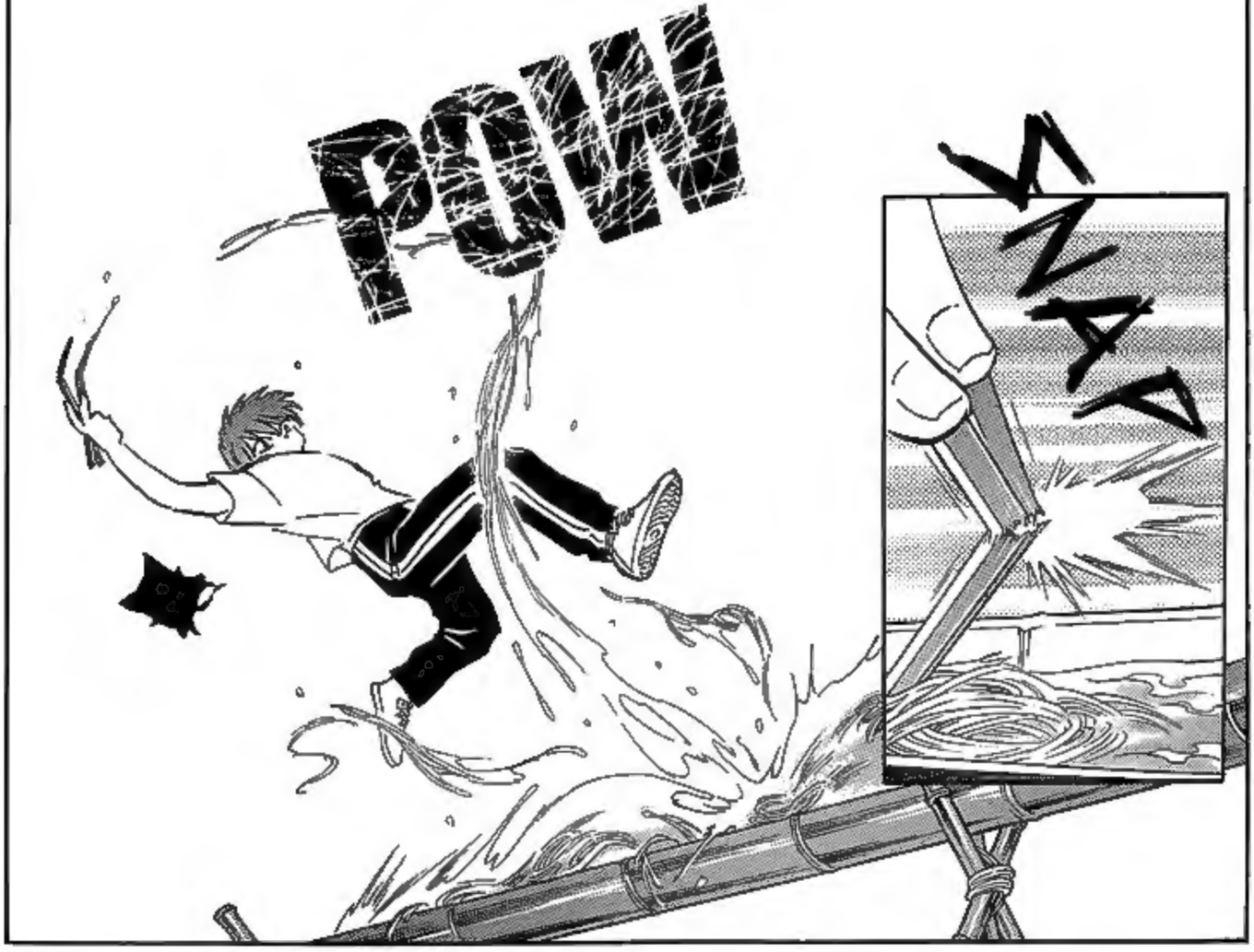
Her one-sided crush on Juumonji spawns a vengeful spirit.
Sakaki Ayame was a junior-high classmate of Juumonji Tsubasa, but moved far away.

3

DOES SHE EVER.
SHE SURE LOOKS DISAPPOINTED.
sighhh

* NAGASHI SOUMEN: SENDING SOUMEN NOODLES DOWN A FLUME OF WATER TO CHILL THEM... AND THEY MUST BE PLUCKED WITH CHOPSTICKS AS THEY SLIDE DOWN!

Whooosh
YIPPEE!
CAN I!?
HUH!?
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY!!
HAH!
HERE IT COMES, RINNE-SAMA!
HOPPING
HUH?
IT'S TOO FAST TO CATCH!
Whiiish
SNIP
RUMBLE
CHOP
5
WHAT'S THIS FORCE!?
Whoooooosh
DAMN!


POW!
SNAP

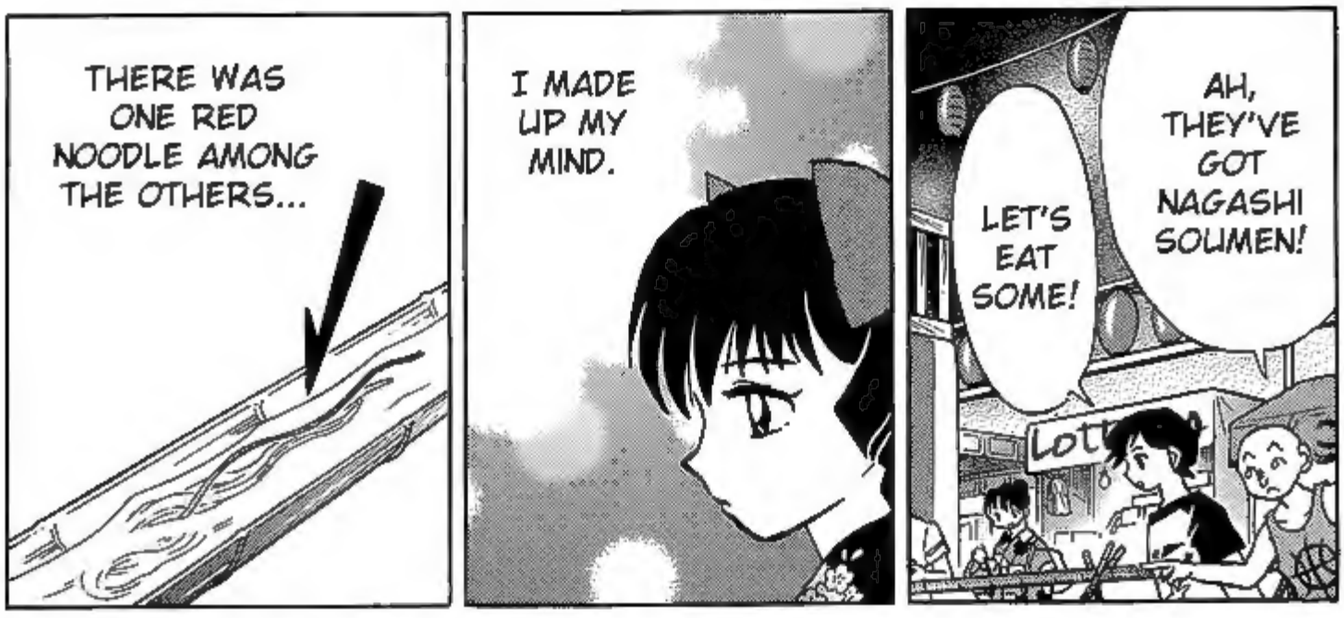
...I KNOW WHAT'S CAUSING IT.
WHAT THE HECK!? THE SOUMEN MOVED YOUR WHOLE BODY!?

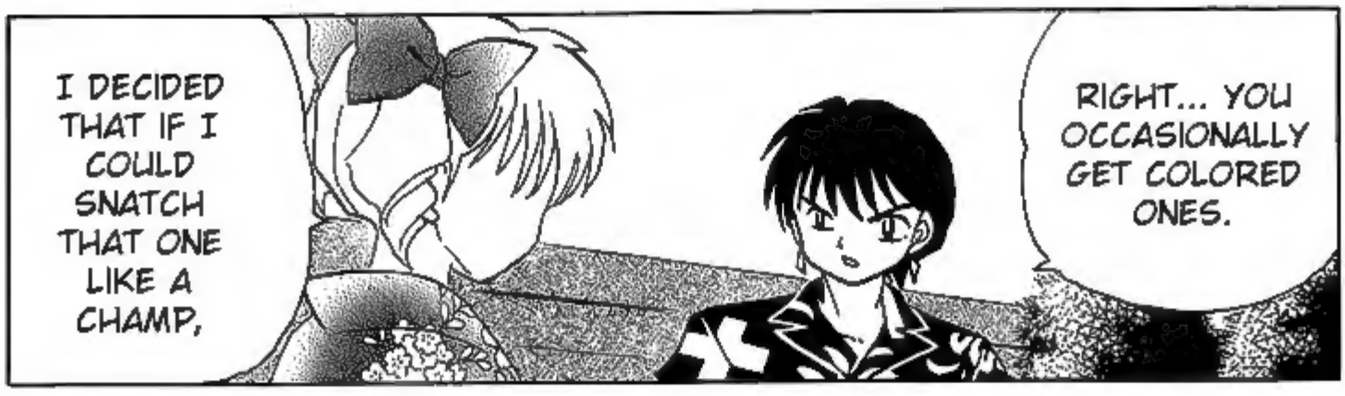
PLEASE SHOW YOURSELF.
KAZUYA
NO MORE HIDING...

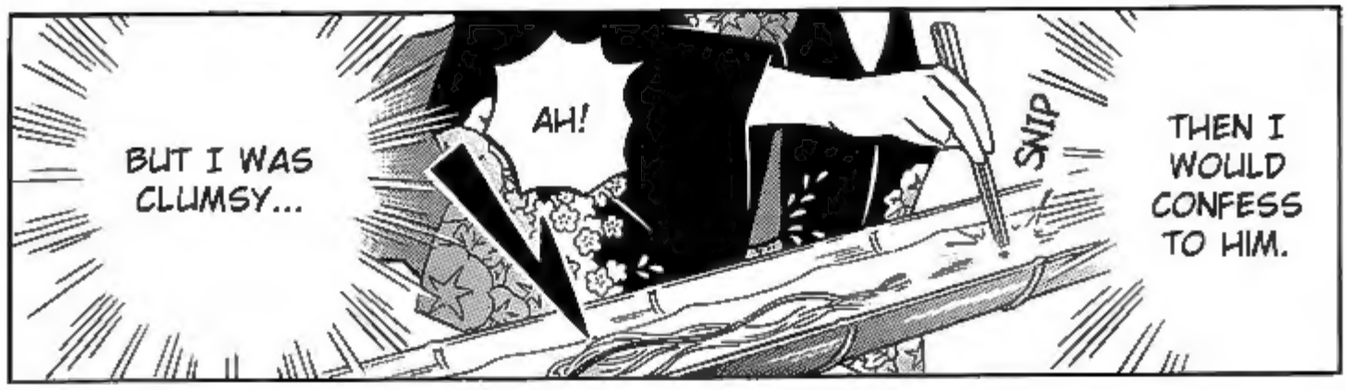
6

!
EH...!?

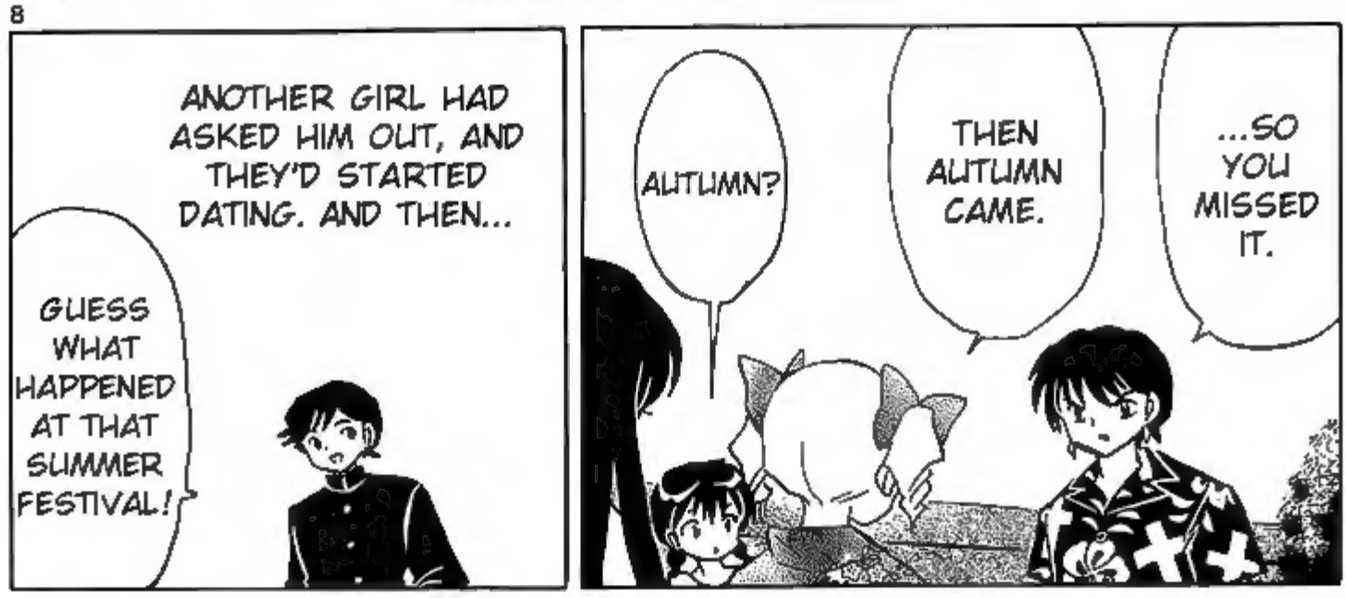
HUH...? THAT GIRL... HAS SHE BEEN HIDING BEHIND AYAME-SAN THIS WHOLE TIME!?
FWISH
NOT ONE OF US COULD SENSE HER PRESENCE...?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?
7
I WENT TO A SUMMER FESTIVAL WITH HIM AND A FEW OTHER CLASSMATES...
SHE STARTED TALKING JUST LIKE THAT!
BUT... I DIDN'T HAVE THE GUTS TO TELL HIM HOW I FELT.
I HAD A ONE-SIDED CRUSH ON A CLASS-MATE...


THERE WAS ONE RED NOODLE AMONG THE OTHERS...
I MADE UP MY MIND.
AH, THEY'VE GOT NAGASHI SOUMEN!
LET'S EAT SOME!


I DECIDED THAT IF I COULD SNATCH THAT ONE LIKE A CHAMP,
RIGHT... YOU OCCASIONALLY GET COLORED ONES.

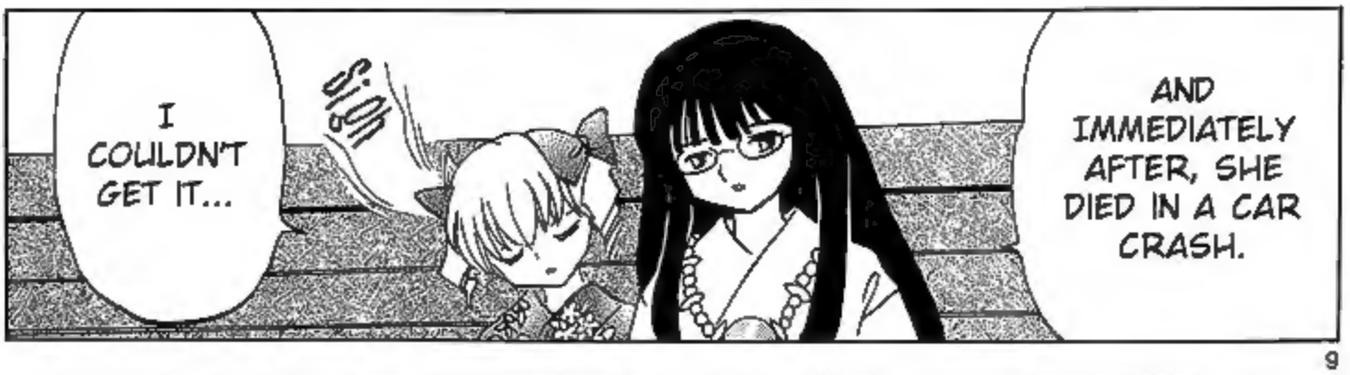

BUT I WAS CLUMSY...
AH!
SNIP
THEN I WOULD CONFESS TO HIM.

8


ANOTHER GIRL HAD ASKED HIM OUT, AND THEY'D STARTED DATING. AND THEN...
GUESS WHAT HAPPENED AT THAT SUMMER FESTIVAL!
AUTUMN?
THEN AUTUMN CAME.
...SO YOU MISSED IT.

SO IT TURNED OUT THAT HE ACTUALLY LIKED ME BACK THEN.
BUT I JUST COULDN'T DO IT.
THE THING IS... I WAS THINKING ABOUT ASKING
OUT...

BUT I COULDN'T !!
I *REALLY* WANTED TO GET IT!
IF ONLY I'D GOT IT!
IF ONLY I'D BEEN ABLE TO GRAB THAT RED SOUMEN NOODLE THAT DAY...


I COULDN'T GET IT...
AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER, SHE DIED IN A CAR CRASH.

9

UMM... BUT AYAME-SAN, AREN'T YOU GUYS...?

I CAN *SOMEHOW* RELATE TO HER...
I WANT TO HELP HER.
ACCUSING

HMM.
YOU TWO EXCHANGED EMAIL ADDRESSES...
AREN'T YOU GOING OUT WITH EACH OTHER?

AND BESIDES THAT...
WELL, SINCE IT'S A LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP, WE CAN'T MEET UP MUCH.

HE'S REALLY A DEMON, ISN'T HE?
AND YET YOU JUST DID, AS LOUDLY AS YOU COULD.
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD EVER TELL THAT TO SAKAKI-SAN.
I'M STRONGLY DRAWN TO MAMIYA SAKURA, WHOM I SEE EVERYDAY.
sigh
sigh

THAT I COULDN'T CATCH THE RED SOUMEN NOODLE.
SO AFTER ALL THAT, YOUR LINGERING REGRET IS...?
sigh

10

SHE PASSED AWAY THINKING SHE COULDN'T EVEN CATCH A SOUMEN NOODLE, SO IT WAS THE STRONGER REGRET.
OH...? NOT THE CON-FESSION ITSELF?

I PRE-PARED THESE.
IF THIS GIRL CAN CATCH A RED SOUMEN NOODLE, THEN I THINK SHE CAN PASS ON.
THAT'S RIGHT.
Sigh
AND SO...
I SEE! IN THAT CASE...
ALL THE NOODLES ARE RED!
Fsshh
I'LL SEND THEM DOWN!
Zip
11
YOU CAN DO THIS!!
Whoosh

I'LL HELP!
SNIP
SPLISH
SPLASH
KYAAAAA AAAAAAA!
!
SWISSHH
CLOGGING
RATTLE
12
IT WAS NO GOOD!
AAH!

AND NOW IT'S EVEN BEGUN ACTING OUT AGAINST ME...
EVERY SUMMER SINCE I DIED, I'VE CHALLENGED MYSELF AT NAGASHI SOUMEN...
YET I'VE STILL NEVER BEEN ABLE TO CATCH ONE...
THUNK
BUT WHY ...?
WAIT...
SO THE SUPERNATURAL SOUMEN REACTIONS ONLY STARTED THIS YEAR?
13
SIGH
THIS IS SO HEART-BREAK-ING...
TIRED
DON'T GIVE UP! GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY.
THAT GIRL HIDING BEHIND SAKAKI AYAME... IF NO-ONE CAN SENSE HER PRESENCE UNTIL SHE COMES OUT...
I KNEW IT!
THAT MUST MEAN ...

Joined

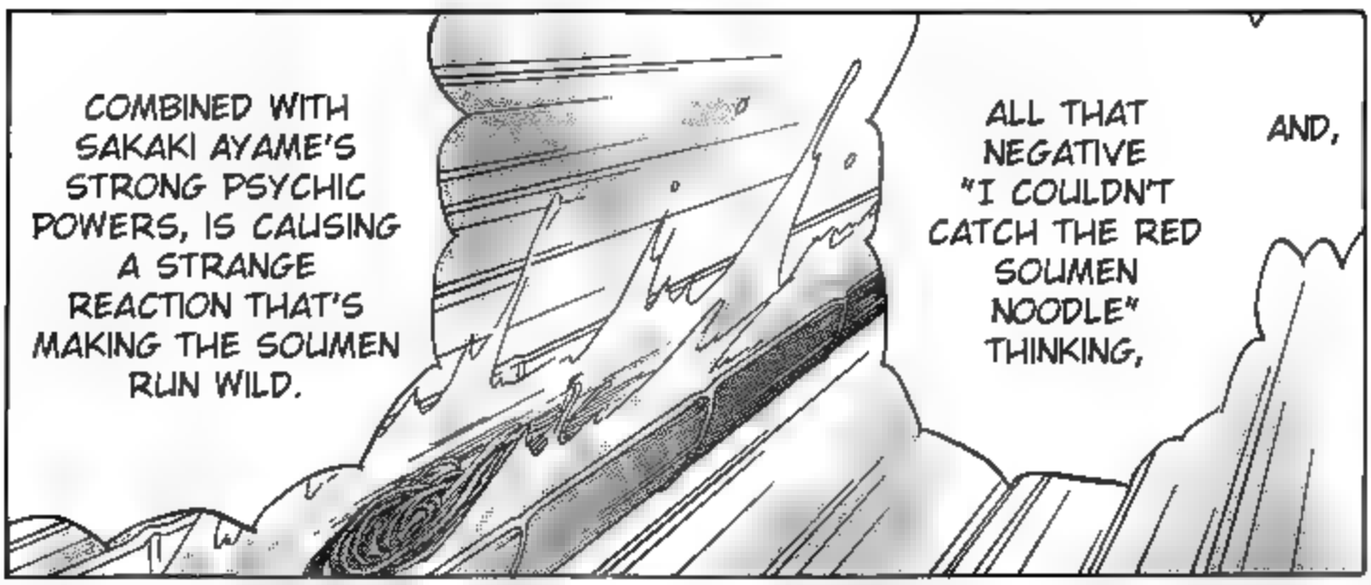
IT'S SPIRIT BONDS.
IS THAT SOUMEN!?
THAT STRINGY STUFF...

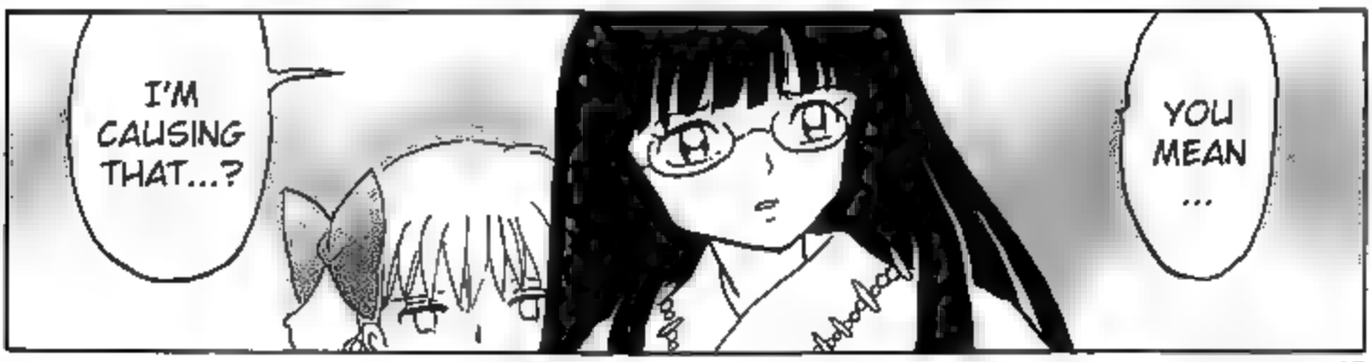
These are strong threads that form between resonating souls!
Spirit Bonds!

THESE TWO HAVE SO MUCH IN COMMON...
RESON-ATING SOULS?

14

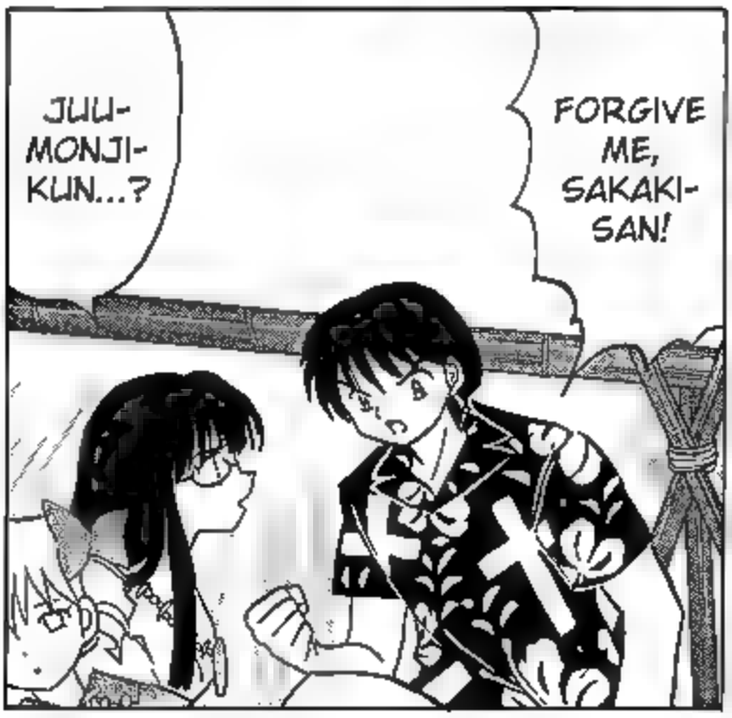
NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS A ONE-SIDED LOVE!

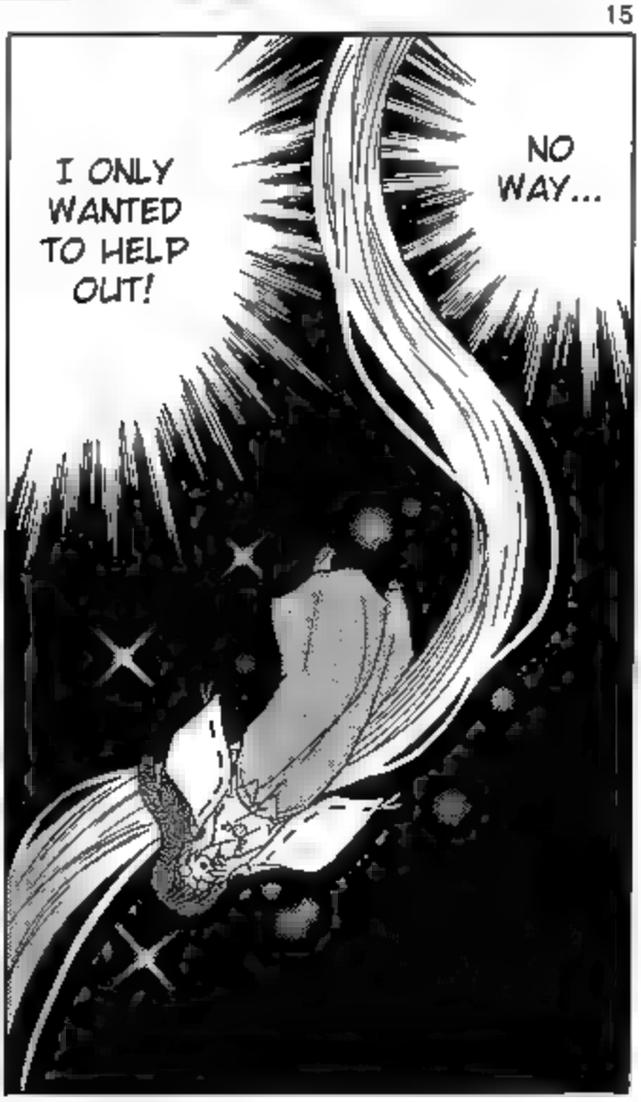

COMBINED WITH SAKAKI AYAME'S STRONG PSYCHIC POWERS, IS CAUSING A STRANGE REACTION THAT'S MAKING THE SOUMEN RUN WILD.
ALL THAT NEGATIVE "I COULDN'T CATCH THE RED SOUMEN NOODLE" THINKING,
AND,


I'M CAUSING THAT...?
YOU MEAN ...

15

THIS IS MY FAULT.
NO...

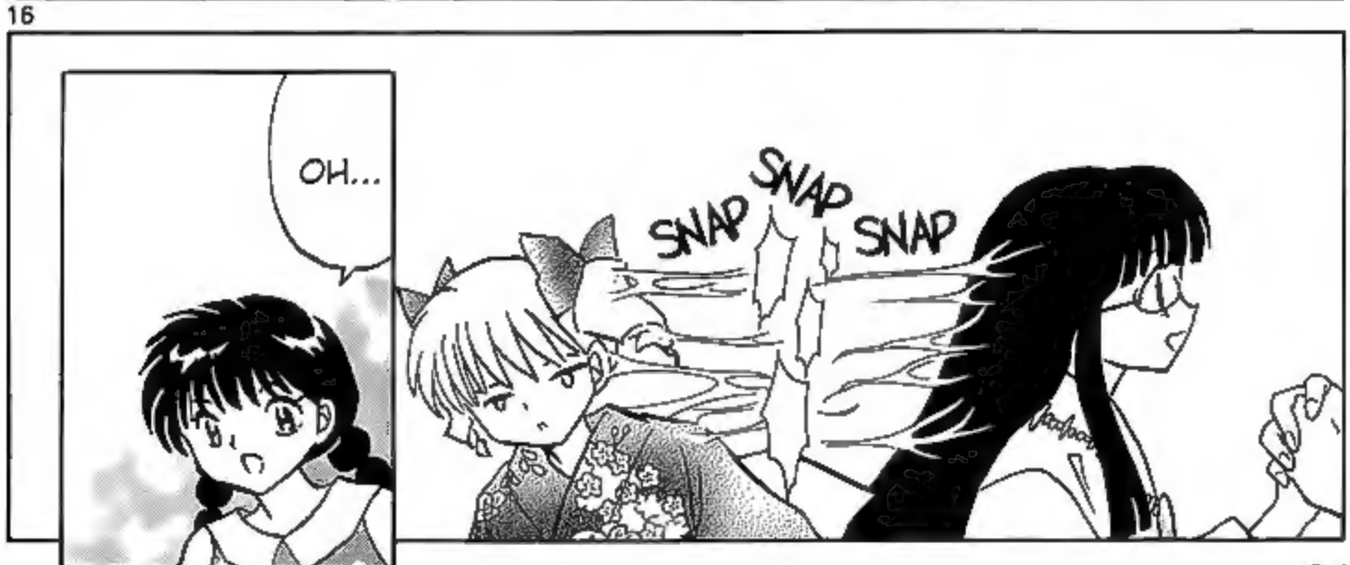

JUU-MONJI-KUN...?
FORGIVE ME, SAKAKI-SAN!


I ONLY WANTED TO HELP OUT!
NO WAY...

HUH~!?
I'M REALLY MOVED!
THE REASON YOU RESONATED WITH A ONE-SIDED-LOVE SPIRIT WAS BECAUSE YOU WERE THINKING ABOUT ME SO MUCH!
CLASP

LIGHTS UP
MY FEELINGS... THEY GOT THROUGH TO HIM!?

16


OH...
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP

SINCE SAKAKI AYAME'S ONE-SIDED FEELINGS WERE RESOLVED, THEIR SOULS AREN'T RESONATING AS STRONGLY.
RIGHT,
THE SPIRIT BONDS BROKE!

SO HOW WILL I PASS ON?
ANNOYED
SOMEHOW I'M THE ONE WHO ENDED UP HAPPY!
SORRY 'BOUT THIS...

HERE, TAKE THESE CHOP-STICKS.
WELL, THE SOUMEN SHOULDN'T RUN WILD ANY MORE, RIGHT?

17

OKAY ...
IF YOU DO THAT, I THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET IT.
FROM HERE ON, JUST FOCUS ON WANTING TO CATCH IT.
"I WANT TO CATCH IT!"
FLOWING
"I CAN'T CATCH THE RED SOUMEN", THINK:
AND INSTEAD OF THINKING:

WANNA CATCH IT.

WANNA CATCH IT.

WANNA CATCH IT.

SHE REALLY DOES SUCK AT THIS...

IT'S BEEN THREE HOURS ...

And yet ...

PLEASE! HURRY UP AND CATCH ONE!

Agitated

WE COULD HAVE GONE ON A DATE TONIGHT, BUT AT THIS RATE...

WHAT A PITY.

I CAUGHT IT-!

The spirit finally caught one after the sun set.

Sigh

YOU'RE LYING, AREN'T YOU?

WELL, I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

IT SEEMS THAT HER SHRINE'S NAGASHI SOUMEN PARTY IS TOMORROW.

YOU'RE GOING HOME, AYAME-SAN?

Roselia Scanlations

KYOUKAI NO RINNE

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